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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6353

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, IS
SUBJ: KOREA IN 29TH UNGA: ISRAELI POSITION

REF A TELAVIV 5396 B. SEOUL 4628 C. USUN 3296

1. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION ON MIDDEL EAST WITH MOFA UN DIVISION CHIEF LEE, EMBOSS SEPT 24 RAISED QUESTION OF ISRAELI SUPPORT FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA (REF A). LEE SAID HE HAD CALLED IN ISRAELI SECOND SECRETARY IN SEOUL IN JUNE AND ASKED FOR ISRAELI SUPPORT OF ROK UN POSITION IN SAME FASHION AS HE HAD APPROACHED WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS OF OTHER MISSIONS IN SEOUL. LEE SAID THAT REQUEST FOR ISRAELI SUPPORT OF ACTUAL RESOLUTION HAS NOT BEEN MADE HERE BUT THAT HE EXPECTED ROK DIPLOMATS IN NEW YORK WOULD EVENTUALLY APPROACH ISRAELIS THERE.

2. LEE THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT ROKG WAS ENTERTAINING POSSIBILITY OF ISSUING PUBLIC STATEMENT ENDORSING ARAB-SPONSORED RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE (REF C). HE SAID THAT WHILE THERE NO PRECEDENT FOR SUCH A STATEMENT BY ROK, FEELING IN SEOUL IS THAT QUICK PUBLIC ENDORSEMENT MIGHT BE ENOUGH TO SECURE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF FRIENDLY KOREA RESOLUTION BY MOROCCO, TUNISIA, AND
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SAUDI ARABIA. LEE ASKED EMBOFF FOR USG POSITION ON

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PALESTINE RESOLUTION AND ROKG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR IT.

3. COMMENT: ROKG POSITION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS UNCHANGED FROM THAT REPORTED REF B, I.E. ROK HAS BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAELI SITUATION AND HAS TRIED TO AVOID UNDULY STRAINING TIES WITH ISRAEL WHILE PURSUING ACTIVE COURTSHIP OF ARABS. HOWEVER, GOAL OF EQUAL STATUS WITH NORTH KOREA IN ARAB WORLD, AND PARTICULARLY ROK DESIRE FOR STRONG ARAB SUPPORT ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UNGA, HAVE PRIORITY FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW OVER RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL.

4. ROK HOPES TO MAINTAIN FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH SIDES TO EXTENT PERMITTED BY REALITIES OF COMPETITION WITH NORTH KOREA IN CONTEXT OF MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. ROKG INCREASINGLY INTERPRETS THESE REALITIES AS DEMANDING IT KEEP A SAFE DIPLOMATIC DISTANCE FROM ISRAEL.

5. ON QUESTION OF SUPPORT OF THE KOREAN RESOLUTION, EMBASSY NOTES THAT TROOPS AFFECTED BY RESOLUTION ARE US AND UNC IS AMERICAN COMMAND. WOULD HOPE ISRAELIS HAVE NO HESITATION IN SUPPORTING US POSITION.

6. REGARDING MOFA REQUEST PARA 2, WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON RESOLUTION ON PALESTINE WHICH WE COULD SHARE WITH MOFA.
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